

The Ackerman-Brinkerhoff House
184 Essex Street
Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

The Ackerman-Brinkerhoff House
184 Essex Street
Hackensack, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: Carl C. and Catherine Simonsen

Date of Erection: 1696 and 1704

Architect: Unknown

Builders: Abraham Ackerman (original owner), with
sons Gerret and David

Present Condition: West wing demolished about 1865
and replaced by present frame construction.
Window sash and mantels replaced about
1800. Garret partitions, dormer windows,
and columns at front door are not original

Number of Stories: One, with garret and cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - coursed ashlar stone
masonry front, broken-range ends
and rear

Interior walls - stone masonry party-
wall and frame partitions

Chimneys - brick, built into inside
of gable end walls

Roof - gambrel, with wide spread front
and rear eaves

Historical Data:

Carved in a stone in the central part
of the east gable end of this valuable surviving
example of Bergen County Dutch-Colonial farmhouse
are the initials A. A. M. G.A.M. D.A.M. and the
figures 1704, with some unique ornamental symbols
of farming. From these clues, the identity of the
original owner and builder of the house in that
year is determined as having been one Abraham
Ackerman, with his two elder sons Gerret and David
as assistants.

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The progenitor of this family in America appears as one David Ackerman from the Mayory of Bosch, Province of North Brabant, Holland, who arrived 31 August 1662 at New Amsterdam in the ship D'Vos (The Fox) with his wife and six children, aged 20, 18, 16, 12, 8 and 6 years.(a) He died within seven months after arrival, for on 26 April 1663 "Lysbet Ackerman widow of David Ackerman's appeared before the Orphanmasters at the City Hall of New Amsterdam and was informed that she must file an inventory of her late husband's property.(b) In reduced circumstances, the widow kept shop in her house in the Marketfield Street.(c) David Ackerman was one of the few immigrants of that time who bore a proper surname to distinguish them from the class of persons who were known individually only by the patronymic. His surname is the Dutch word for husbandman or farmer, evidently the occupation of his forefathers.(d)

Abraham² D. Ackerman, the original owner of this house as abovesaid, was born 15 May 1659(e) in Holland, possibly in the village of Berlicum in the Mayory of Bosch,

(a) Holland Soc. N.Y., Passengers to New Netherland, 1654-66, publ. 1902, p. 22.

(b) Soc. Col. Dames N.Y., Minutes of the Orphanmasters of New Amsterdam, 1655-63, publ. 1902, p. 242.

(c) Fernow, Records of New Amsterdam, V. 192 etc.

(d) David Ackerman brought with him to New Amsterdam 1662 his six children: Lysbeth b. 1642, m. Kier Wouters; Anneken b. 1644, m. 1664 Daniel P. Hennion; David b. 1646, d. 1710-24 in Hackensack, Bergen Co., N.J.; Lourens b. 1650, d. before 1707 there; Lodewyck b. 1654, res. to 1703 Hackensack, removed to Phillipsburg, N.Y. and Abraham, b. 1656 or 1659, of whom further, (Wm. Nelson, Hist. City Paterson and Co. Passaic, 1901, p. 333).

(e) On the reverse of an oil painting of a man plowing a field is inscribed in Dutch: Abraham Ackerman born May 15th A.D. 1659, with a pious verse. (Papers and Proceedings Bergen Historical Soc., V, 17.)

Province of North Brabant, youngest of the six children of David Ackerman, and came with the family to New Amsterdam in 1662 as above stated. On 28 June 1683 he was married to Aeltje Van Laer in Flatbush, Kings County, L.I., New York, a daughter of Adrian Van Laer and wife Abigel Verplanck, the banns having been published at the Dutch church in Bergen (Jersey City), on 28 May preceeding, on account of the bridegroom's residence being there.(f)

On 1st April 1684, Aeltje Van Laer, wife of Abraham Ackerman, was received as a member of the church at Bergen, on certificate from Midwout (Flatbush, L.I.), and on 3 October 1696 she was dismissed to the church at Hackensack. On the same date, Abraham Ackerman was received as a member of the latter church on making his confession of faith, and on 3 January 1697 Aeltje Van Laren, wife of Abraham Ackerman, was there received by letter from the Bergen church. These data establish the fact that Abraham Ackerman did not settle at Hackensack until 1696, at least ten years after his three brothers, David, Lourens and Lodewyck, who were recorded members of the Hackensack church at its organization in 1686.(g) In 1689 he

(f) Holland Soc. N.Y., Marriage Records, Ref. Prot. Dutch Church of Bergen, N.J., publ. 1914: "Banns registered 13 May 1683: Abraham Ackerman, single man, from Berlicum in the Miery of Bois le Duc, and Aaltje Van Laer, maiden, from New York. Received certificate May 27 to Brooklyn; married May 28". Cf. Ibid., Records of Dutch Ch. Flatbush, publ. 1898, viz. 28 June 1683 - Abm. Akkerman to Aeltje V. Laren.

(g) Collections Holland Soc. N.Y., Records of the Ref. Dutch Chs. of Hackensack and Schraalenburgh, N.J., publ. 1891.

Owned a tract of land adjacent to the southwest line of the 295 acres extending from the Hackensack to the Saddle River which his brother Lourens Ackerman then occupied.(h)

It is likely that Abraham Ackerman built his first home in 1695-96, apparently the now demolished west wing of the house here considered, in which case the 1704 dated eastern end of the main house was an addition made in that year, his family having increased from six to twelve living children, between 1696 and 1706.(i) No probate on his estate is

(h) Deed dated 10 March 1689, John Berry of Co. Bergen, N.J., to Lowrance Ackerman of Co. Essex, recorded in Bergen Co. Deed Book A, p. 207. This tract lay in New Barbadoes Twp. which was set off from Essex Co. to Bergen Co. in 1710. No deed conveying land to Abraham Ackerman is found on record.

(i) Abraham² Ackerman and wife Aeltje Van Laer had 14 children (the first 7 born in Bergen and bapt. recorded in R.D. Ch. of N.Y.C., the 8th born and bapt. in Bergen, and the last 6 born and bapt. in Hackensack, N.J.) viz. 1. David bp. 11 May 1684, d. 1760 at Paramus, 2. Gerret bp. 3 May 1685, d. 1757-62 at Saddle River, 3. Abigail bp. 19 Jan. 1687, m. Andries Hopper and Dirck Brinkerhoff, 4. Lysbeth bp. 19 May 1689, m. Johannes Doremus, 5. Johannes bp. 16 Sep. 1690, bur. 29 Oct. 1690, 6. Anneken bp. 27 Dec. 1691, m. Thomas Doremus, 7. Anna Maria bp. 12 July 1693, bur. 24 Jan. 1696, 8. Adrian bp. 26 Mar. 1695, living in Hackensack 1742, 9. Johannes bp. 15 Nov. 1696, d. 18 June 1760 at Paramus, 10. Gelyn bp. in Dec. 1697, living in Hackensack 1744, 11. Anne Marie bp. 6 Apr. 1701, m. Albartus Terhuyne, 12. Abraham bp. 22 Feb. 1702, living in Hackensack 1745, 13. Sarah bp. 21 Jan. 1705, m. Cornelius Toers, and 14. Lourens b. about 1706, of whom further. (Wm. Nelson, Hist. City Paterson & Co. Passaic, 1901, p. 335. N.Y. Geneal. Biogr. Record X and XI. Holland Soc. N.Y. 1913 and 1915. Collections Holland Soc. N.Y., 1891).

found on record, and accordingly the date of his death after 1723 has not been estimated.* It is apparent from the records of subsequent transfers of this property that it passed from this Abraham Ackerman to his youngest son Lourens, and apparently because his elder sons David and Johannes had already removed from Hackensack to Paramus and Gerrit to Saddle River.

Lourens³ Ackerman(j), born about 1706, youngest of the six sons and fourteen children of Abraham Ackerman, the original owner of this house in Hackensack, evidently succeeded his parents in possession thereof, by some transfer not found on record, as indicated by the succeeding chain of title to the property.

For, by his will dated 30 March 1770 and proved 19 December 1782, Lawrens Ackerman of Bergen County, yeoman, after providing for his wife Geesje the use of his estate and bequeathing 50 pounds each to his grandchildren Lawrence and Catrrientje, "the children of my son Abram," devised "to my son's son named Lawrence Ab. Ackerman the plantation where I live and the place called Calcoon Neck and the cedar swamp," requiring him to pay 200 pounds to his Aunt Grietje Huysman and 100 pounds to his sister Catrintje Ackerman. The residue of his lands he devised to the two grandchildren abovenamed and to his daughter Grietje wife of Isac Huysman, and named executors: his wife Geesje, son-in-law Isaac Huysman, and John Terhune.(k)

*Abram Ackerman and wife Aeltie are recorded as sponsors at the baptism of grandson Abram Ackerman 5 May 1723 at Hackensack Church.(g)

(j) Laurens Akkerman, single man, and Geesje Paulsen (sic) maiden, both living in Hackensack, were married 27 Oct. 1727. She was bap. 2 Sept. 1709 there, dau. of Marten Paulse and Margrietje Westervelt. The children of Lourens Akkerman and Geesje Martense were: Margrietje b. 10 Feb., bp. 9 Mar. 1729, mar. 3 Nov. 1748 Isaac Huysman of Hackensack; and Abraham bp. 7 Sept. 1735. (Collections Holland Soc. N.Y. publ. 1891).

(k) Abstract of Will publ. in N.J. Archives, XXXV, 10.

Abraham⁴ Ackerman, baptized 7 September 1735 at the Dutch Church in Hackensack, only son of Laurens Ackerman and wife Gcesje Martense Pauluson abovenamed, married Ante Poulese (Pauluson) and had a son Laurens A. Baptized 2 September 1759 and a daughter Catrientje. No record of his estate appears in the files of probates in Bergen County, and from the fact that he is mentioned only as father of the devisee of the homestead in the will of his father in 1770 as above cited, it may be assumed that he was then deceased.

Lourens⁵ A. Ackerman, baptized 2 September 1759, only son of Abraham Ackerman abovenamed, and devisee of the homestead under the terms of the will of his grandfather Lourens Ackerman in 1770, evidently held the same at the date of his will, 5 March 1822, proved 7 May following.

Describing himself as Lawrence A. Ackerman of the Township of New Barbadoes, County of Bergen, he devised to his wife Sophia and three sons, Lawrence, John and Henry, various household furniture, farm implements, cattle, horses, sheep, wagons, a black woman, and "my pew in the church at Hackensack", but mentioned no real estate.(1)

Accordingly by three deeds of quitclaim dated 6 May 1822, the said three sons and a fourth, Nicholas, divided his landed property. Thus, Lawrence L. Ackerman and wife Phebe and Nicholas L. Ackerman and wife Matilda, all of Bergen County, conveyed to John L. and Henry L. Ackerman of same place, for \$5, certain tract of land in New Barbadoes Township, including "the old homestead". The lines of this are therein described as beginning at the southwest corner of land belonging to the Dutch Reformed Church of

(1) Lourens A. Ackerman and wife Sophia Lozier had children bapt. at The Ref. Dutch Ch. of Hackensack viz. Jacob bp. 23 Oct. 1785, Lourens bp. 10 Jan. 1793, Johannes bp. 7 July 1795, Nikolas bp. 20 July 1798 and Hendrik bp. in Apr. 1801.

Hackensack, thence N. 18E 1.52; S. 72 E 11, N. 7 W. 2.54, N 40 W. 2, N 7 W. 7, N. 28W. 4, N. 20W. 3.26, N. 71W. 13.17, N. 48° 15'E 57.85, and S. 50E 12.35, containing 90 acres, 2 quarters and 3 perches. This is the earliest description of this homestead by metes and bounds which appears in the public records of transfer. The church property mentioned therein was the parsonage lot, not the church building which stands some blocks eastward on the village "Green" of Hackensack. A $9\frac{1}{4}$ acre woodlot on Saddle River was also conveyed by this deed.

But by deed of 10 November 1825, the grantees John L. Ackerman, with his wife Hester and brother Henry L. Ackerman, all of New Barbadoes Township,* Bergen County, conveyed the homestead tract of 95 acres there and a $9\frac{3}{4}$ acre woodlot on Saddle River to Albert Brinkerhoff of Hackensack Township* for \$5786. This grantee evidently purchased the property for his son Albert Brinkerhoff about the time of the latter's marriage, as is obvious from his will dated 28 May 1834, in which he, as "Albert Brinkerhoff of the Township of Hackensack" devised to his son Albert "The Pollifly* farm now in his possession and all the cattle, horses and farming utensils belonging thereto, the red neck woodland", and five lots of woodland, maple swamp, and meadow. To his son Jacob he left "My old Hackensack farm".

But the son Albert A. Brinkerhoff lost the farm when the sheriff levied upon it after judgment rendered by the Court of Common Pleas in a suit to recover debts of \$1013.79 instituted by Jacob C. Terhune, and of \$140.31 by John Hopper. Having seized the property, the sheriff sold and conveyed it by deed of 15 January 1848 to Jacob I. Hopper for \$2297.50, he being highest bidder at the public sale held on 7 December 1847, at the "Washington Mansion House" in the village of Hackensack, describing the property as "Being the homestead farm of the

*Hackensack Township lay on the east side of the Hackensack River, while Hackensack village lay in New Barbadoes Township, on the west side. The Pollifly, in which lay this Ackerman farm, was the region extending southward from the village, which name survives in Pollifly Road, also known as Terrace Ave. Lodi Township was set off from New Barbadoes Twp. in 1825 and later the town of Hackensack became coextensive with the latter. L.D.C.

said Albert A. Brinkerhoff" and as containing about 80 acres.

Subsequently, by deed of 30 March 1850, this Jacob I. Hopper and wife Ann, of Lodi Township, conveyed the same 80 acre "Homestead Farm late of Albert A. Brinkerhoff" to John H. and Kesia A. Brinkerhoff of New Barbadoes Township, for \$5378.38. These grantees conveyed the same property to John Hopper of the city of Paterson, New Jersey, by their deed of 14 October 1854, and he laid out the farm in building lots and streets.

The executors of John Hopper, late of Paterson, N.J., deceased, conveyed to the Pollifly Company by deed of 19 January 1899 in consideration of \$16,000, a tract "in the village of Hackensack", extending some 950 feet from a frontage on the northeast side of Essex Street, and eastward across Railroad Avenue, exclusive of the land sold by Hopper to the Hackensack Railroad Company in 1882. This corporation (Frank B. Poor, presdt.)* conveyed to Edward E. Poor, of the village of Hackensack, six adjacent lots of those into which they had parcelled the tract acquired as above stated, by deed of 1st July 1899, describing them as having a frontage of 321 feet on the north line of Essex Street, a depth of 203 feet to Sussex Street, and an eastward frontage of 293 feet on the N.J. and N.Y.R.R. Co., "with all and singular the houses, buildings" etc.

This grantee, Edward E. Poor, died at Liverpool, England, on 29 July 1900, leaving a will dated 19 January of same year, in which he describes himself as of New York City. He devised to his wife Mary W. Poor all the household goods in his house there and in "her house at Hackensack" N.J., instructed his executors to purchase the "homestead owned by her in the

*Frank B. Poor, b. 24 Apr. 1868 at Hackensack, resided there on Essex St. near Terrace Ave. 1898, banker, presdt. Hackensack Gas and Electric Co., son of Edward E. Poor, presdt. National Park Banks of New York City. (Bergen Co. Demarest, History of Hackensack, N.J., 133.)

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village of Hackensack" for \$25,000, and authorized them to sell it and any other real estate.(m)

Accordingly, by their deed of 23 October 1900, the widow and other executors of Edward E. Poor, deceased, late of New Barbadoes Township, conveyed to (his daughter) Emily Poor Montgomery of that place, for \$7500 the same six lots described above, on which stands the house here considered. Mrs. Montgomery, with her husband William S., conveyed the same to John S. Mabon by deed of 30 July 1906, all the parties being described as of Hackensack in New Barbadoes Township. Mrs. Mabon was Garetta V. Cortelyou, a granddaughter of Albert A. Brinkerhoff who owned and occupied this house from 1825 to 1848. His wife Altia (Hopper) was a descendant of the original owner, Abraham D. Ackerman for whom it was built in 1696-1704 as described above. The old homestead thus returned to the family again.(n)

The property passed to their daughters Miss Elizabeth Mabon and Mrs. A. J. L'Heureux*

(m) His son, Mr. Horace F. Poor of 59 Polifly Rd., Hackensack, informs us 8 April 1942 that the house was conveyed to his sister Emily Poor Montgomery upon her marriage to Lieut. Wm. S. Montgomery USN (who hoisted the first American flag on the Island of Guam in the conquest of the Phillipine Islands under Admiral Dewey). After his resignation to enter law practice, they resided in this house for two or three years until removal to Mt. Kisco, N.Y. renting this house to Mr. John S. Mabon, presdt. Hudson Trust Co. of Hoboken, N.J., who purchased it 1906. Mrs. Montgomery now resides in Bath, England.

*Wife of Lieut. Col. Alfred J. L'Heureux, A.E.F. They built the shingled frame house, adjacent to the house here surveyed, around the corner, on Newman St., about 1922-24. He is a partner in Ramsey and Morgan, attornios, N.Y.C. Her sister, Miss Elizabeth Mabon lived in the old house until recently, and now elsewhere in Hackensack.(Horace F. Poor, Hackensack, N.J., 8 Apr. 1942, who also reports that the old house is to be demolished, much to his regret.)

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by 1936, and in 1942 was sold by the agents, Charles H. Borg, Inc. of Hackensack, to Carl C. and Catherine Simonsen, who will occupy it as a private residence.

Reference:

Search of title in Bergen County land and probate records by the undersigned

Lewis D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

(n) Cf. R.F.Bailey, Pre-Rev. Dutch Houses and Families, 1936, p. 269.